

Subpart C—Prehearing Procedures

§ 22.13 Issuance of complaint.

If the complainant has reason to believe that a person has violated any provision of the Act, or regulations promulgated or a permit issued under the Act, he may institute a proceeding for the assessment of a civil penalty by issuing a complaint under the Act and these rules of practice. If the complainant has reason to believe that

(a) A permittee violated any term or condition of the permit, or

(b) A permittee misrepresented or inaccurately described any material fact in the permit application or failed to disclose all relevant facts in the permit application, or

(c) Other good cause exists for such action, he may institute a proceeding for the revocation or suspension of a permit by issuing a complaint under the Act and these rules of practice. A complaint may be for the suspension or revocation of a permit in addition to the assessment of a civil penalty.

§ 22.14 Content and amendment of the complaint.

(a) *Complaint for the assessment of a civil penalty.* Each complaint for the assessment of a civil penalty shall include:

(1) A statement reciting the section(s) of the Act authorizing the issuance of the complaint;

(2) Specific reference to each provision of the Act and implementing regulations which respondent is alleged to have violated;

(3) A concise statement of the factual basis for alleging the violation;

(4) The amount of the civil penalty which is proposed to be assessed;

(5) A statement explaining the reasoning behind the proposed penalty;

(6) Notice of respondent's right to request a hearing on any material fact contained in the complaint, or on the appropriateness of the amount of the proposed penalty.

A copy of these rules of practice shall accompany each complaint served.

(b) *Complaint for the revocation or suspension of a permit.* Each complaint for the revocation or suspension of a permit shall include:

(1) A statement reciting the section(s) of the Act, regulations, and/or permit authorizing the issuance of the complaint;

(2) Specific reference to each term or condition of the permit which the respondent is alleged to have violated, to each alleged inaccuracy or misrepresentation in respondent's permit application, to each fact which the respondent allegedly failed to disclose in his permit application, or to other reasons which form the basis for the complaint;

(3) A concise statement of the factual basis for such allegations;

(4) A request for an order to either revoke or suspend the permit and a statement of the terms and conditions of any proposed partial suspension or revocation;

(5) A statement indicating the basis for recommending the revocation, rather than the suspension, of the permit, or vice versa, as the case may be;

(6) Notice of the respondent's right to request a hearing on any material fact contained in the complaint, or on the appropriateness of the proposed revocation or suspension.

A copy of these rules of practice shall accompany each complaint served.

(c) *Derivation of proposed civil penalty.* The dollar amount of the proposed civil penalty shall be determined in accordance with any criteria set forth in the Act relating to the proper amount of a civil penalty and with any civil penalty guidelines issued under the Act.

(d) *Amendment of the complaint.* The complainant may amend the complaint once as a matter of right at any time before the answer is filed. Otherwise the complainant may amend the complaint only upon motion granted by the Presiding Officer or Regional Administrator, as appropriate. Respondent shall have twenty (20) additional days from the date of service of the amended complaint to file his answer.

(e) *Withdrawal of the complaint.* The complainant may withdraw the complaint, or any part thereof, without prejudice one time before the answer has been filed. After one withdrawal before the filing of an answer, or after the filing of an answer, the complainant may withdraw the complaint, or any part thereof, without prejudice,

only upon motion granted by the Presiding Officer or Regional Administrator, as appropriate.

§ 22.15 Answer to the complaint.

(a) *General.* Where respondent: (1) Contests any material fact upon which the complaint is based; (2) contends that the amount of the penalty proposed in the complaint or the proposed revocation or suspension, as the case may be, is inappropriate; or (3) contends that he is entitled to judgment as a matter of law, he shall file a written answer to the complaint with the Regional Hearing Clerk. Any such answer to the complaint must be filed with the Regional Hearing Clerk within twenty (20) days after service of the complaint.

(b) *Contents of the answer.* The answer shall clearly and directly admit, deny or explain each of the factual allegations contained in the complaint with regard to which respondent has any knowledge. Where respondent has no knowledge of a particular factual allegation and so states, the allegation is deemed denied. The answer shall also state (1) the circumstances or arguments which are alleged to constitute the grounds of defense, (2) the facts which respondent intends to place at issue, and (3) whether a hearing is requested.

(c) *Request for hearing.* A hearing upon the issues raised by the complaint and answer shall be held upon request of respondent in the answer. In addition, a hearing may be held at the discretion of the Presiding Officer, sua sponte, if issues appropriate for adjudication are raised in the answer.

(d) *Failure to admit, deny, or explain.* Failure of respondent to admit, deny, or explain any material factual allegation contained in the complaint constitutes an admission of the allegation.

(e) *Amendment of the answer.* The respondent may amend the answer to the complaint upon motion granted by the Presiding Officer.

§ 22.16 Motions.

(a) *General.* All motions, except those made orally on the record during a hearing, shall (1) be in writing; (2) state the grounds therefor with particularity; (3) set forth the relief or order

sought; and (4) be accompanied by any affidavit, certificate, other evidence, or legal memorandum relied upon. Such motions shall be served as provided by § 22.05(b)(2).

(b) *Response to motions.* A party's response to any written motion must be filed within ten (10) days after service of such motion, unless additional time is allowed for such response. The response shall be accompanied by any affidavit, certificate, other evidence, or legal memorandum relied upon. If no response is filed within the designated period, the parties may be deemed to have waived any objection to the granting of the motion. The Presiding Officer, the Regional Administrator, or the Environmental Appeals Board, as appropriate, may set a shorter time for response, or make such orders concerning the disposition of motions as they deem appropriate.

(c) *Decision.* Except as provided in § 22.04(d)(1) and § 22.28(a), the Regional Administrator shall rule on all motions filed or made before an answer to the complaint is filed. The Environmental Appeals Board shall rule on all motions filed or made after service of the initial decision upon the parties. The Administrator shall rule on all motions filed or made after service of the initial decision upon the parties. The Presiding Officer shall rule on all other motions. Oral argument on motions will be permitted where the Presiding Officer, the Regional Administrator, or the Environmental Appeals Board considers it necessary or desirable.

[45 FR 24363, Apr. 9, 1980, as amended at 57 FR 5325, Feb. 13, 1992; 57 FR 60129, Dec. 18, 1992]

§ 22.17 Default order.

(a) *Default.* A party may be found to be in default (1) after motion, upon failure to file a timely answer to the complaint; (2) after motion or sua sponte, upon failure to comply with a prehearing or hearing order of the Presiding Officer; or (3) after motion or sua sponte, upon failure to appear at a conference or hearing without good cause being shown. No finding of default on the basis of a failure to appear at a hearing shall be made against the